

A NEW SPECIES OF *STATHMOPODA* FROM COLOMBIA (LEPIDOPTERA: STATHMOPODIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT: The new species *Stathmopoda filicula* is described from Colombia.

DESCRIPTORS: Microlepidoptera, moth, *Stathmopoda filicula*, Stathmopodidae, Colombia.

This species is described to provide a name so that the notes on the life history of this moth may be published by William G. Eberhard of Cali, Colombia in the following paper.

Stathmopoda filicula, new species

Figures 1-3

Alar expanse 7-7.5 mm.

Labial palpus buff. Antenna fuscous except outer fourth grayish buff; scape buff. Head gray with metallic luster. Thorax grayish fuscous with metallic luster. Forewing ground color fuscous, the whole wing with metallic luster; at basal fourth a broad, brassy fascia and in tornal area an ill-defined brassy blotch; cilia grayish fuscous. Hindwing grayish fuscous with brassy luster; cilia grayish fuscous. Foreleg buff with blackish-fuscous spot at end of femur and tibia; midleg straw yellow with blackish-fuscous spot at end of femur and tibia. Hindleg straw yellow with blackish-fuscous spot at distal end of femur and blackish-fuscous annulus at distal end of tibia; tarsal segments blackish fuscous. Abdomen grayish fuscous dorsally, buff ventrally, ventrally.

Male genitalia slide USNM 24236. Harpe simple; sacculus narrowly and slightly thickened; cucullus broadly rounded. Gnathos stout, triangular, pointed. Uncus broad basally, slender distally and slightly hooked. Vinculum triangular. Tegumen curved dorsally, rather deep dorso-ventrally. Anellus a simple sclerotized plate. Aedeagus nearly straight, very stout; cornuti absent.

Female genitalia slide USNM 24237. Ostium transverse, broad, slitlike. Antrum not differentiated. Inception of ductus seminallis anterior, from bursa copulatrix. Ductus bursae membranous except for a sclerotized band anteriorly at junction with bursa copulatrix. Bursa copulatrix membranous; appendix bursae membranous. Signum an elongate scobinate plate with narrow, heavily sclerotized, longitudinal, median ridge.

Holotype male Colombia: 12 km. E. of Buenaventura, William G. Eberhard. USNM 75253. Paratype ♂ and ♀, same data.

There are no closely related species described from South America,

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Stathmopoda filicula, new species: Fig. 1. lateral aspect of male genitalia with aedeagus removed; Fig. 2. lateral aspect of aedeagus.

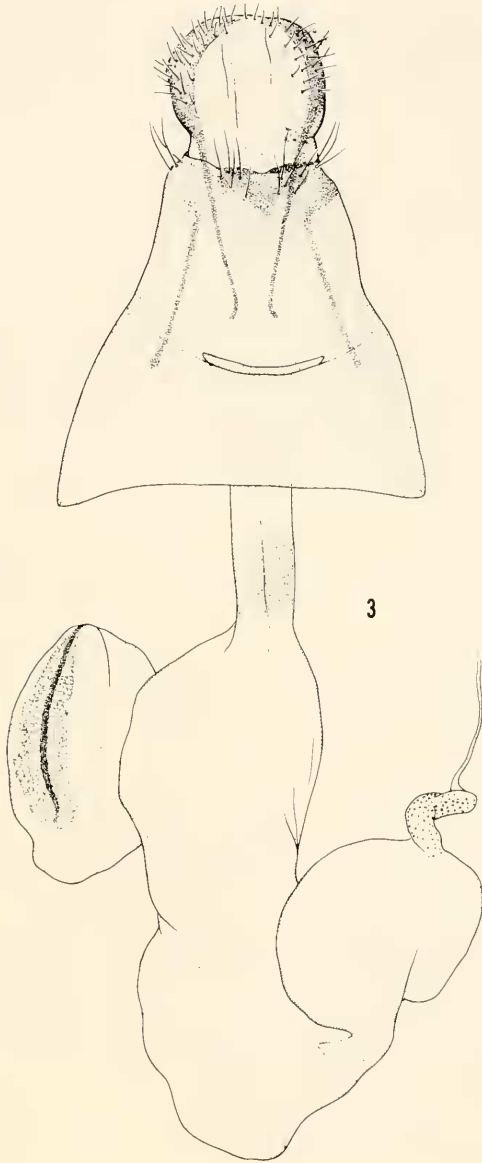


Fig. 3. ventral view of female genitalia.

but *filicula* is similar in superficial appearance to the North American *Schreckenstenia erythriella* (Clemens). The former can be distinguished immediately from the latter by its yellow legs and the brassy fascia of forewing.

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NATURAL HISTORY OF IMMATURE STAGES OF MICROLEPIDOPTERAN *STATHMOPODA FILICULA* CLARKE¹

William G. Eberhard²

ABSTRACT: A partial life history of *Stathmopoda filicula* Clarke is described.

DESCRIPTORS: Microlepidoptera, Stathmopodidae, *Stathmopoda filicula* Clarke, partial life history described.

On August 9th, 1975, larvae of *Stathmopoda filicula* Clarke were found on a frond of an unidentified fern growing on a roadbank in a cleared area about 12 km. east of Buenaventura, Colombia. This zone, on the coastal plain west of the Andes, is classified by Espinal and Montenegro (1963) as pluvial tropical forest. The larvae were most common near the central part of the leaf where the spores were darker and more mature. Each larva was living between the underside of the leaf and a sheet of white silk in which were included many empty sporangia. At one edge of each sheet was a hole in the leaf (probably chewed by the larva — one larva in captivity chewed a new hole, apparently discarding the pieces of leaf). When larvae were disturbed, they retreated through these holes onto the other (top) side of the leaf where there was a short flap made of silk and empty sporangia covering the hole. The larva usually retreated only part way through the hole, and the flap more or less covered its body; the flap was usually not large enough, however, to cover its entire body.

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